

The spirit of thrift as well as economy is seen in the management of city affairs as reported by Mayor A. O. Smoot in a communication to the City Council in 1874. An excerpt follows:



A. O. SMOOT

Leading Pioneer of Provo and Utah County

"Six years ago when I came here the ordinances were in a rough state and they are not complete yet. * * * I did not find the city in debt, but an empty treasury; the property of the city amounted

to about \$1,000. The labor of six years has produced the accumulation of a few thousand dollars; we have enclosed both squares; we have expended \$1,538 on the City Jail; we have \$4,000 in the County Court House; we have paid on police duty for a year past, on an average, \$150 per month, and kept up the ordinary contingent expenses of the city, furnished stationery, paid our recorder and officers, not extravagantly; and we have in the treasury some \$2,000 in cash; besides, all the property we had six years ago. We do not boast of this, but it is somewhat unaccountable, when the taxes amount to ten or twelve hundred dollars per annum, or averaging eleven hundred dollars."

The taxes referred to by Mayor Smoot probably do not include receipts from licenses, but these were not large.

ERA OF MATERIAL PROGRESS

During the early eighties a number of substantial business blocks were built in the city, among them being the Provo Theatre, the First National Bank building and S. S. Jones's store. Within the next few years, other buildings followed. The "Enquirer" became a daily, and a new paper, "The American," was started. There was talk of more railroads for the town. At the close of the decade a real estate boom took possession of the city, and new people began to arrive. Private enterprise and enthusiasm pointed the way to greater public activity. The feeling became prevalent that the city had been ultra-conservative, and that the time had arrived